



SOUTHEAST NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 41, Number 1

March 1993

“We’ve a Story to Tell ...”

That is the theme of the upcoming Southeast Conference Annual Meeting to be held on the campus of the historic Talladega College June 11-13. The focus at this important gathering will be to share the varied stories which help us remember and give thanks for how God has acted to bring us to this point and how God can work through us into the future.

The Rev. Norman Jackson, Hawaii Conference Minister and former Executive Director for the Council for American Indian Ministry, will be our keynote speaker.

Although it will be necessary to take care of some business, business sessions will be kept lean and compact. If there are any resolutions we ask that they be created as statements of witness and concern. Plan now to come celebrate witness to the transforming power of God.

A Festival of Talents is an evening of local church talents shared as our Annual Meeting Celebration. There will be stories, pictures, skits, music, etc. to express your own church.

Each church, in coming to share the story and identity of our faith in the Southeast, is asked to prepare their delegates by identifying the mission and key story of their church. Specific information will be mailed to the churches.

You are encouraged to attend.

Please send your information or phone the chairperson, Ms. Renae Koehler-Gupta, 2404 Heatherbrook Rd., Birmingham, Alabama 35242, (205) 995-9667.

Keynote Speaker

The Reverend Norman W. Jackson, Ed.D. is of Seneca Indian and English ancestry. Born and reared in Ames, Iowa, he is married to the Rev. Faith Fitch Jackson. The Jacksons live in Honolulu, Hawaii. Their children Nancy Beth Jackson, Ph.D. and Peter Charles live and work on the mainland.

The Reverend Norman W. “Jack” Jackson is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, UCA. Since October 1989 he has served as Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ. Prior to that he served the Council for American Indian Ministry, was executive associate to the President of the United Church of Christ, Conference Minister of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference and

was on the faculties of the Eden Theological Seminary and the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and served parishes in Wisconsin, including a new church started in Madison.

The Reverend Jackson holds a degree from the University of Tulsa and Hartford Seminary and was named Distinguished Alumnus in 1987. He also holds two degrees from Indiana University including his Doctorate in Education.

The Reverend Jackson has multiple interests including his wife and children, music, jogging, reading, theology, backpacking, looking at and hiking through mountains, enjoying the ocean, people, international travel, and history. He is also committed to the demand of American Indians for justice, a full life, and a reclaiming of their true and honorable history.

The Upper Room On Peachtree:

“... In everything give thanks to God.”

Those opening lines in the program celebrating the new headquarters for the Southeast Conference were written by the Conference Minister. In this biblical quote, the Rev. Roger Knight captures the warmth and excitement generated by the presence of clergy, staff, friends and visitors on Saturday, January 30, 1993.

A sincere welcome was extended to all present by Rev. Roger Knight, and Dr. Erna Bryant, moderator, followed by words of reflection by Rev. Floyd Carmack, who serves as Chair of the Location Committee. For several years, Rev. Carmack expressed his hopes and dreams of new facilities for the Conference, while expressing gratitude to Central Congregational Church for their gracious hospitality for the past 36 years (1957-1993). Rev. Carmack reminded those present that this was a step along the way in the ultimate hope of a Conference Center with accommodations for overnight guest, camping facilities, etc. for a more comprehensive Conference program, along with basic office needs.

Ms. Barbara Everett, former moderator, was presented an award of recognition by Rev. Roy Bain for her many years of selfless service to the Conference. Attorney Ren Manning, Chair of Special Gifts for the Visions '91 Campaign, spoke of his appreciation for the campaign that helped to make the move possible.

A small moving truck was given to Don Harmon for the Rev. Roger Jones, Leon Lee and Clarence Harmon in absentia of the East Alabama Association, who donated their time, travel, and hard work in moving the office materials and contents.

Craftsman Sig Orgler of Robbins, Tennessee, who donated the wood, designed and built the oak bookcases in the offices, received a miniature bookcase and a warm appreciation for his skill and willingness to contribute his services.

Visitors were invited to have a tour of the facilities, located on the third floor, and to take a moment to visit the Heritage and Resource Room organized as a result of the effort of the Heritage Committee, who catalogued and identified books about individual churches, resources and information in a usable format. Ms.

Frances Smith, Chair, described the work of the Committee, and member Rev. Dr. Channing Jeschke brought a smile to everyone, as he named the new headquarters—*The Upper Room on Peachtree!*

The Church & Ministry Committee for the Conference is nearing completion of a new guidebook to help clergy and church leaders to function more effectively. This very important effort was described by the Rev. Robert Johnson of Atlanta, Chair. He also reminded those present that the Ensminger Fund will sponsor and Ensminger Intern Program with Fisk University in which a graduate student would develop young leadership in the Southeast. Treasurer Lester Ariail indicated that the Conference operates on a balanced budget and that the assets are increasing in a profitable manner.

A highlight of the Dedication and Open House was the presentation to Roger Knight and to the Conference, of a pictorial progress of the new Chattanooga United Church of Tennessee and the activities of its founding pastor, Rev. James E. Fouthier. Joining in the presentation was the Organizing Committee Chair, Ms. Vanessa Robbs and Ms. Angelle Collins Fouthier, wife of this teaching and preaching pastor. The Chattanooga contingent was infectious with their enthusiasm as they described the development of this exciting new ministry.

A renewal of the Center Congregational Church on Moore's Mill Road in Atlanta was noted by Rev. Maureen Jenci-Shelton; the organizing efforts of the DeKalb church were mentioned; as well as those of the Macon, Georgia church.

For several years, the United Church of Christ has been confused with other denominations in the Southeast, and to remedy that difficulty and to enhance our image, an Identity Task Force was formed to fulfill as a goal of Visions '91 Funds. Ms. Geneva Morrell, a member of that Task Force, designed and produced a brochure especially created for the Dedication & Open House event. In her brief remarks, she described the efforts and challenges of the group and invited the participation of all, as we seek to more clearly identify who we are and what our polity is.

Over 60 youth and adult coordinators from across the Conference dropped into the Open House on their way to Underground Atlanta and to other parts of the city, to celebrate with us. Rev. Joe Hoffman of Central Church, Charlotte Harnsberry of First Church Birmingham and Beth Knight of Pilgrimage Church, Marietta and Tony Smith helped to remind us of the heritage we leave to future generations. Two of the young folk described their experiences at the recent National Youth Event at Beloit College.

Board secretary Mr. Jack Simmons of the Nashville First United Church invited all present to be reminded of the dates of the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held June 11-13, 1993 at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama.

Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown, a former missionary and former staff member of the Office for Church Life and Leadership shared insightful glimpses of the United Church of Christ's involvement in international and ecumenical affairs. She introduced Rev. & Mrs. Lammers, long-time missionaries in Japan, who also

brought guests from the Pleasant Hill community to share in the historic moment in the life of the Conference. Joyce is the current chair of the Women's Commission.

An artistically created cake with the UCC Logo and a magnificent collation with a flowing fountain were organized by Ms. Darlene Johnson of Trinity Church, Jonesboro, GA, with refreshments from the Atlanta area churches.

This time of excitement and commitment ended with a litany read by the Rev. Richard Sales of Birmingham's Pilgrim Church and Ms. Florence Miller of Plymouth Church, Charleston, South Carolina; a prayer offered by Ms. Lala Allen, local church elder from LaFayette, Alabama; and a ribbon cutting with Rev. Roger Knight, Rev. Mitchell Johnson and Dr. Erna Bryant.

Sincere thanks and appreciation goes to Beth and Leanne Knight who were responsible for decorations; Mr. Michael Johnson, our photographer; Rev. O'Connor for serving as videographer, and everyone who helped to make this witness to God's work a memorable occasion.

"... In everything give thanks to God." Dr. Erna Bryant, Moderator

OCWM RECEIPTS DECEMBER 31, 1992

Fourth Quarter OCWM, December 31, 1992

CHURCHES By Association	THIRD Quarter	TOTAL 1992
ALABAMA-TENNESSEE		
ALPINE, KING'S CHAPEL	0.00	138.00
ATHENS, TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL	200.00	200.00
BELVIDERE, 1ST UNITED CHURCH	4,126.10	6,589.10
BIRMINGHAM, 1ST CONGR. CHURCH	2,600.00	4,960.00
BIRMINGHAM, PILGRIM	1,350.00	5,400.00
CHATTANOOGA, FIRST CONGR. CHURCH	0.00	0.00
CHATTANOOGA, PILGRIM	3,871.23	15,485.00
CROSSVILLE, UCC	750.00	3,675.50
CULLMAN, ST. JOHN'S	2,700.00	8,100.00
DEER LODGE CONGREGATIONAL	300.00	1,200.00
FAIRFIELD GLADE COMM. CHURCH	750.00	3,000.00
GARDEN CITY CONGR. CHURCH	115.50	462.00
GLENMARY CONGR. CHURCH	400.00	400.00
HANCEVILLE, MOUNTAIN GROVE	150.00	150.00
KNOXVILLE, CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR	1,200.00	2,250.00
MARION, FIRST CONGR.	0.00	0.00
MONTGOMERY, FIRST	0.00	1,900.00
NASHVILLE, 1ST UNITED CHURCH	2,000.00	6,900.00
NASHVILLE, BROOKMEADE	0.00	200.00

NASHVILLE, HOWARD	600.00	600.00
PLEASANT HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH	4,500.00	18,000.00
ROBBINS, BARTON CHAPEL	0.00	300.00
SWEETWATER, FIRST	0.00	0.00
TALLADEGA, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	0.00
TOUGALOO, UNION UCC	0.00	0.00
UNITED CHURCH OF HUNTSVILLE	2,250.00	9,000.00
WAVERLY, UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH	40.00	160.00
	27,902.83	88,031.60

GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA

ATLANTA, CARROLL HEIGHTS	0.00	0.00
ATLANTA, CENTRAL	8,600.00	34,000.00
ATLANTA, FIRST	5,500.00	11,000.00
ATLANTA, RUSH	0.00	0.00
ATLANTA, SOUTHWEST	0.00	0.00
ATLANTA, UCC	250.00	250.00
BARNESVILLE, FREDONIA	0.00	150.00
BEACHTON, EVERGREEN CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	495.00
BRASELTON, MACEDONIA	0.00	0.00
BUFORD, DUNCAN'S CREEK	0.00	0.00
CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL WOMEN	0.00	200.00
CHARLESTON, CIRCULAR	2,500.02	5,000.04
CHARLESTON, PLYMOUTH	0.00	1,200.00
COLUMBIA, PILGRIM	0.00	0.00
DEMOREST, FEDERATED	227.00	456.25
DEWY ROSE, LIBERTY	0.00	0.00
JONESBORO, TRINITY	1,650.00	6,600.00
LILBURN, GWINNETT COMMUNITY	300.00	1,200.00
MACON, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	0.00
MARIETTA, PILGRIMAGE	1,145.91	2,750.06
MIDWAY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	300.00	800.00
SAVANNAH, FIRST	450.00	1,100.00
THOMASVILLE, BETHANY CONGR. CHURCH	0.00	300.00
	21,497.93	66,076.35

EAST ALABAMA-WEST GEORGIA

ALEX CITY, FIRST	0.00	0.00
COLUMBUS, UNITED	95.00	95.00
DADEVILLE, ELDER	476.00	476.00
EAST TALLASSEE, CONGR. CHRISTIAN	0.00	171.00
ECLECTIC, WATSON'S CHAPEL	0.00	0.00
FIVE POINTS, STATE LINE	0.00	0.00
LAFAYETTE, PLEASANT GROVE	531.00	1,309.00

LAGRANGE, HILLSIDE	0.00	0.00
LAGRANGE, UNITED	114.00	1,045.00
LANETT, CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN	618.00	1,093.00
LANGDALE, CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	164.00
PHENIX CITY, RUSSELL WOODS	285.00	1,140.00
PINE MOUNTAIN, OAK GROVE	594.00	1,188.00
ROANOKE, ANTIOCH	0.00	570.00
ROANOKE, BETHANY	0.00	0.00
ROANOKE, FIRST	0.00	713.00
ROANOKE, FOREST HOME	0.00	48.00
ROANOKE, NEW HOPE	0.00	600.00
ROANOKE, NORTH MAIN	332.00	616.00
ROANOKE, ROCK STAND	0.00	175.00
VALLEY, TODD CONGREGATIONAL	0.00	0.00
WADLEY, CORINTH CHRISTIAN	119.00	357.00
WEDOWEE, NOON DAY	0.00	0.00
WEST POINT, BETHEL	0.00	0.00
WOODBURY, JONES CHAPEL	760.00	2,280.00
	3,924.00	12,040.00

SO. ALABAMA-N.W. FLORIDA

ANDALUSIA, ANTIOCH	1,100.00	1,500.00
ANDALUSIA, FIRST CC	110.00	1,050.00
BAKER, GOOD HOPE	0.00	0.00
BAKER, PYRON	0.00	75.00
BONIFAY, NEW EFFORT	0.00	0.00
BRANTLEY, INDIAN CREEK	0.00	0.00
BRANTLEY, LIBERTY	0.00	0.00
CLIO, NEW HOPE	0.00	0.00
HEADLAND, BLACKWOOD CC	40.00	285.00
	1,250.00	2,910.00

New OCLL Video & Guides on Lay Ministry in the United Church of Christ

The Office for Church Life and Leadership is excited to share with you our newest resources. *With These Gifts* is a twenty-minute video with accompanying leader and study guides that will help churches to focus on the meaning of lay ministry in the church and world.

The video is crisp and to the point. It offers on-site interviews with United Church of Christ laymen and women in their churches, places of work, and communities to discover how Jesus Christ is calling them to serve and to care for others.

Viewers are treated to the impressive stories of seven laypersons who have discovered what it means to live out their faith in their day-to-day lives. We see how Ray lives out his faith as a postal service worker in southern California, how Christy's growth as a college student is rooted in her church, how John ministers in the midst of unemployment on the Cheyenne River Reservation, how Bill lives out his faith as a Wall Street stockbroker, and how Miguelina offers healing as a nurse in New England. Others also offer powerful testimonies.

As we receive each one's story, we are not only inspired by the difference Christian faith makes in their lives, we are also challenged to reflect on the ways that God is calling us to serve in our own situations. The video points out that sharing our faith is not just something we do in our local churches, but also wherever we see need in our communities or throughout the world.

A study guide is provided to encourage local churches to offer either a one or four session case study to help members consider their own gifts for ministry and ways to express them. A leaders' guide provides in-depth advice to enable lay leaders to lead this educational experience.

With These Gifts has many different uses. Besides being used as an introduction to the ministry of the whole people of God, it can serve as a resource for new member classes, confirmation classes, or men's and women's organizations. The video is inclusive in its treatment of both men and women and features people from ethnically diverse churches in different parts of the country. In the process, viewers celebrate the United Church of Christ's unity and diversity, discovering the many good things that lay leaders in our denomination are doing to witness to Jesus Christ, and work for peace with justice in our world.

Partnership in Mission

Churches of the Southeast Conference and the Iowa Conference have a wonderful opportunity to develop friendship between congregations and a deeper understanding of the wider church through a special program called "Partnership in Mission."

One such relationship is already being developed between the First United Church, UCC, of Nashville, and St. John's Church, UCC, of Ackley, IA. It's no coincidence that the pastors of these churches, the Rev. Robert Kurtz of Nashville, and the Rev. Charles Kurtz of Ackley are brothers. Plans for this year include a pulpit exchange Sunday for the brothers, and a trip to Nashville for the youth of St. John's. The Iowans are looking forward to staying with members of the United Church, working with Nashville teens in a mission project and seeing the sights of "Music City."

Youth from the Southeast Conference met Iowa's youth at the Event at Beloit College last summer and are eager for more time together at General Synod.

St. Peter's Church in Geneva, Iowa will be hosting a group from SEC as they travel to the Iowa Conference camp, Pilgrim Heights, for youth leadership training.

Last summer, teens from Geneva worked with other teens from the Belvidere church in a work project with battered children.

Several Iowa churches are hoping to develop a special relationship to a sister church in the Southeast Conference.

For more information about Partnership in Mission, or the name of an Iowa church, contact: Trudy Braun, Chair of the Partnership Committee, Route 11, Box 206, Crossville, TN 38555.

CHURCH AND PEOPLE NOTES

Upcoming travel opportunity to Cuba, August 15-30, 1993. The work/study tour is open to college age students between 18-27 years old. Please contact the United Church Board for World Ministries, Office for Racial and Ethnic Minority Constituency Development and Recruitment, 700 Prospect Ave. East #632, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100, (216) 736-3216 for an application.

Center Congregational Church celebrated a reopening on February 28, the first Sunday of Lent, 11:00 a.m. Center Church is located at 1055 Moores Mill Road, 1/4 mile east of I-75. For further information contact Harvey Newman at 252-6954.

Chattanooga United Church celebrated its inaugural worship service on February 28, 1993 at the Washington Hills Community Center in the Hwy. 58 area. Rev. James E. Foucher, Jr., new start pastor, was presiding.

Rev. and Mrs. Foucher and the New Start committee members would like to thank everyone in the Conference for their support in this endeavor. "You've lessened the load."

The new church will be meeting at the community center at least until fall.

Newman Congregational Church is celebrating the 350th Anniversary of its gathering in 1643. They are eager to contact former members and friends of Newman Church who have moved away. If you are one, or know of one, please send name, address and phone number to the 350th Homecoming Church, U.C., P.O. Box 4764, Rumford, RI 02916 or call (401) 434-4742.

UPCOMING: UCC Women Offer

Day of Dialogue on Racism/Sexism

Atlanta—*SISTER TO SISTER: A Dialogue On Racism* is a day-long discussion event about barriers to solidarity between women of different races. Scheduled for Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 105 Courtland St. (downtown), it will feature small group discussion, worship, singing, speaker and a planning session. Lunch will be served, a \$6 donation is requested to cover lunch and registration. *For details, call Maureen Jenci-Shelton at 874-6113.*

CLERGY-SPOUSE RETREAT:

“Come Apart to a Quiet Place”

April 12-14, 1993

Monday, 1:30 p.m.—Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.

St. Bernard's, Cullman, Alabama

Life-giving Ministry: Through Preaching the Word

HENRY & ELLA MITCHELL

**Co-leaders, former professors at
Colgate Rochester Divinity School**

\$55 per person/double room

\$100 per couple/double room

\$75 per person/single room

2 nights include 5 meals

Sponsored by Church and Ministry Commission.

For more detailed information see registration form mailed to your churches.

Scholarships Available

“Shout It With Many Voices!”

By Jennifer Decker

Shout it With Many Voices! was the theme for the first gathering of youth groups from all over the Southeast Conference.

The weekend was a reunion primarily of youth who had attended the National Youth even last July; but it was also a chance to meet new youth and adults from other churches. The reunion was held January 29-31 at Central Congregational Church in Atlanta. Five churches from three associations participated in this fun event. We gathered Friday evening and played some getting-to-know-each-other games. The next morning we gathered to hear a

speaker, Mary Brueggemann, talk about Faith Works '94. During the afternoon we attended the open house of the Conference's new office and then went on to either ice skating or Underground. The next morning we got up extra early to pack up and attend the morning worship service at Central. After church we said our goodbyes and headed home, excited about the next gathering this is already being planned.

When Jill Reemsnyder was asked if she would encourage other SE Conference youth groups to participate in future conference gatherings, she gave an eager response of "Oh, yes, because of all the neat people, fun and being very uplifting." What was the best part of the weekend? "I got to meet more people, make new friends and learn new things about myself. Dzuaya Nkuchwayo, one of the youth who attended N.Y.E., quickly agreed. When Kevin Byers was asked how he liked the weekend, he said, "Pretty cool with all the people coming from all over." The only changes the participants agreed upon: to make the gathering longer and to be able to take a shower (would be nice as well). The next youth gathering will be April 16-18 down by the ocean at Laguna Beach, as part of the East Alabama-sponsored Mini Camp.

Christmas 1992

By Meta Potter, Director

Morgan-Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns

Panic sets in every November as our phones ring continually with requests to be on our Christmas toy program. Every year I think how can we possibly get enough money to serve all these needy children.

And every year we rejoice, when from the goodness of your heart, you make funds available to us to fill the great need of these children of Morgan and Scott counties.

Christmas of 1992 saw 770 children receiving two gifts and a piece of clothing. The 770 children represented 301 families. Of these families, 64 had income from work, some part-time and most minimum wage. 137 families received Aid to Dependent Children and 44 families said they had no income except food stamps.

Toys and postage stamps were the only items purchased with your donation. Ten volunteers helped with the program.

Our gratitude for your love, compassion, kindness and generosity is everlasting.

May God continue to bless each and everyone during 1993!

Southeast UCC 1993 25th Year Anniversaries

Alabama

0050 Andalusia, First Cong'l Christian

50th

0220 Garden City, Garden City CC	75th
0460 Roanoke, Forest Home Christian	100th
0560 Talladega, First Congregational	125th

Georgia

0905 Jonesboro, Trinity United Church	25th
0930 Macon, First United Church of Christ	125th

Schedule I

Alabama

0610 Wadley, Corinth Christian	100th
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Schedule II

Alabama

1480 Roanoke, Mt. Zion	100th
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THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Published by the Southeast Conference
United Church of Christ

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Associate Conference Minister, Mitchell C. Johnson
Office Administrator, Barbara O'Connor
Moderator, Dr. Erna Bryant
Vice Moderator, Richard Sales
Secretary, Jack Simmons
Treasurer, Lester Ariail

Alabama-Tennessee Association Moderator, James Smalley, Jr.
East Alabama-West Georgia Association Moderator, Bill Tweed
Georgia-South Carolina Association Moderator, Robert Johnson
South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Moderator, Woody Clark
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The preceding was a transcription from the original publication, except for photographs and associated captions, a registration form for the 1993 Annual Meeting on page 2, and an order form for the “With These Gifts” resource on page 3. Neither the original nor the transcription are copyrighted or have rights reserved; they are in the public domain for free use. Copies of the original may be obtained from the Southeast Conference office.

This transcription was recorded on August 31 and September 2, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

